

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TC/A.U. 3761**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): An absorbent device adapted to deliver a therapeutic agent to a user having a vaginal epithelium, the device comprising:

a generally cylindrical body having a proximal end and a distal end and adapted to be positioned entirely within the user, the body including

an absorbency zone adjacent the distal end, wherein the absorbency zone includes absorbent material;

an application zone adjacent the proximal end and spaced apart from the distal end, wherein the application zone has a surface adapted to contact the vaginal epithelium; and

a formulation including a therapeutic agent positioned substantially adjacent the surface and substantially within the application zone, wherein the formulation including a therapeutic agent includes a hydrogel material or a foam component.

Claims 36-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (currently amended): A method for producing a device for delivering a therapeutic agent to a user having a vaginal epithelium, the method comprising:

manufacturing a tampon having a generally cylindrical body with a distal end, a proximal end, a longitudinal axis, an absorbency zone adjacent the distal end, and an application zone adjacent the proximal end, wherein the body is adapted to be positioned entirely within the user, wherein the absorbency zone has an absorbency zone surface adapted to contact the vaginal epithelium and absorbent material extending from the longitudinal axis to the absorbency zone surface, wherein the application zone has a an application zone surface, and wherein the manufacturing act includes manufacturing the body from a material; and

locating a formulation including a therapeutic agent substantially adjacent the application zone surface and substantially within the application zone, including applying the formulation including a therapeutic agent to the material before the body is manufactured.

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Claims 49-54 (canceled)

Claim 55 (currently amended): An absorbent device adapted to deliver a therapeutic agent to a user having a vaginal epithelium, the device comprising:

a generally cylindrical body having a proximal end, a longitudinal axis, and a distal end, the body including

an absorbency zone adjacent the distal end, wherein the absorbency zone includes absorbent material, and wherein the absorbency zone has an absorbency zone surface adapted to contact the vaginal epithelium and absorbent material extending from the longitudinal axis to the absorbency zone surface;

an application zone adjacent the proximal end and spaced apart from the distal end, wherein the application zone has a an application zone surface, and wherein the application zone consists essentially of non-absorbent material; and

a formulation including a therapeutic agent positioned substantially adjacent the application zone surface and substantially within the application zone.

Claim 56. (currently amended): A method for producing a device for delivering a therapeutic agent, the method comprising:

manufacturing a tampon having a generally cylindrical body with a distal end, a proximal end, a longitudinal axis, an absorbency zone adjacent the distal end, and an application zone adjacent the proximal end, wherein the application zone has a an application zone surface, wherein the absorbency zone has an absorbency zone surface adapted to contact the vaginal epithelium and absorbent material extending from the longitudinal axis to the absorbency zone surface;

compressing the body; and

locating a formulation including a therapeutic agent substantially adjacent the application zone surface and substantially within the application zone after the body is compressed.

Claim 57 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the device is a catamenial device.

Claim 58 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the device is an incontinence device.

Claim 59 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the device is a tampon.

Claim 60 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the application zone includes absorbent material.

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Claim 61 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the application zone includes non-absorbent material.

Claim 62 (new): The device of claim 35, further comprising a reservoir within the application zone, wherein the formulation including the therapeutic agent is located substantially within the reservoir.

Claim 63 (new): The device of claim 62, wherein the reservoir is in communication with the application zone surface.

Claim 64 (new): The device of claim 62, wherein the reservoir is located under the application zone surface.

Claim 65 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the formulation including a therapeutic agent is encapsulated.

Claim 66 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the body is compressed, and wherein the formulation including a therapeutic agent is applied to the body after the body is compressed.

Claim 67 (new): The device of claim 35, wherein the body is constructed from a material, and wherein the formulation including a therapeutic agent is applied to the material before the body is constructed.

Claim 68 (new): The method of claim 48, further comprising providing a tampon applicator such that pressure from the tampon applicator on the body releases the therapeutic agent from the application zone.